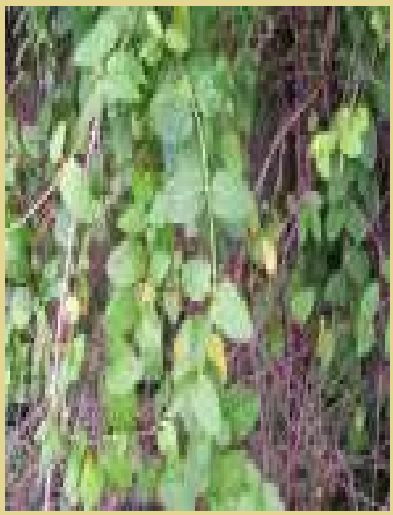
NATURAL BIODIVERSITY
A Conservation Strategy

BioBullies

Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japopica

Impacts:
Japanese honeysuckle spreads vigorously and out-competes native plant species because of its advantage of being evergreen-like. This twisting vine has the capability of killing smothering trees and shrubs. Very few natural enemies exist in the U.S. to help control the plant.



Suspected Means of Introduction: Japanese honeysuckle was introduced to the U.S. in the early-to-mid-1800's as an ornamental plant, for erosion control, and for wildlife forage and cover. People enjoyed the flowers for the sweet honey-flavored nectar.

Description: Japanese honeysuckle, which is found in the more southern habitats, is an evergreen-like perennial vine that climbs shrubs and small trees. Leaves are oblong to oval, sometimes lobed and occur in pairs along the stem. The fragrant flowers are tube like, with five white-to-pink petals, and occur in pairs along the stem. The stems and leaves are sometimes covered with fine, soft hairs. Japanese honeysuckle blooms from late April through July and sometimes into October, depending on the location. The black fruits generally appear in the fall and are easily distinguished from the red-to-orange fruits of the native-vining honeysuckle.

Native Range: Japan and Korea

Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japopica

Habitat: Japanese honeysuckle can survive in a wide variety of habitats including fields, forests, wetlands, and all types of disturbed lands.

Biology: Growth and spread of Japanese honeysuckle is through vegetative means and seeds. It produces roots where the stem and leaf junctions reach moist soil. Rhizomes help to spread the plant locally. Birds and wildlife can help disperse the plant by consuming the fruits and carrying the seeds distances from the plant.

Control Methods: Hand pulling of seedlings and young plants should be performed when the soil is moist, so as to remove the whole plant along with its roots. Cut and remove twining vines to prevent them from girdling and killing shrubs and other plants. Mowing large patches of honeysuckle may be useful if repeated and is most effective when combined with herbicide application. When using herbicide, read the label and follow all state and federal requirements.

Resources for Identification and Control of Japanese Honeysuckle

Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas – National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Weed of the Week - USDA Forest Service

Plant Profile Database - USDA

Invasive.org
University of GA, US Forest Service, USDA APHIS

PA Field Guide - Common Invasive Plants in Riparian Areas

NATURAL BIODIVERSITY
A Conservation Strategy

Natural Biodiversity | 430 Main Street, 4th Floor | Johnstown, PA 15901
Voice: 814-532-5049 | Fax: 814-536-5764 | www.naturalbiodiversity.org
e-mail: NBD_Staff@naturalbiodiversity.org